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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
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Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
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SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

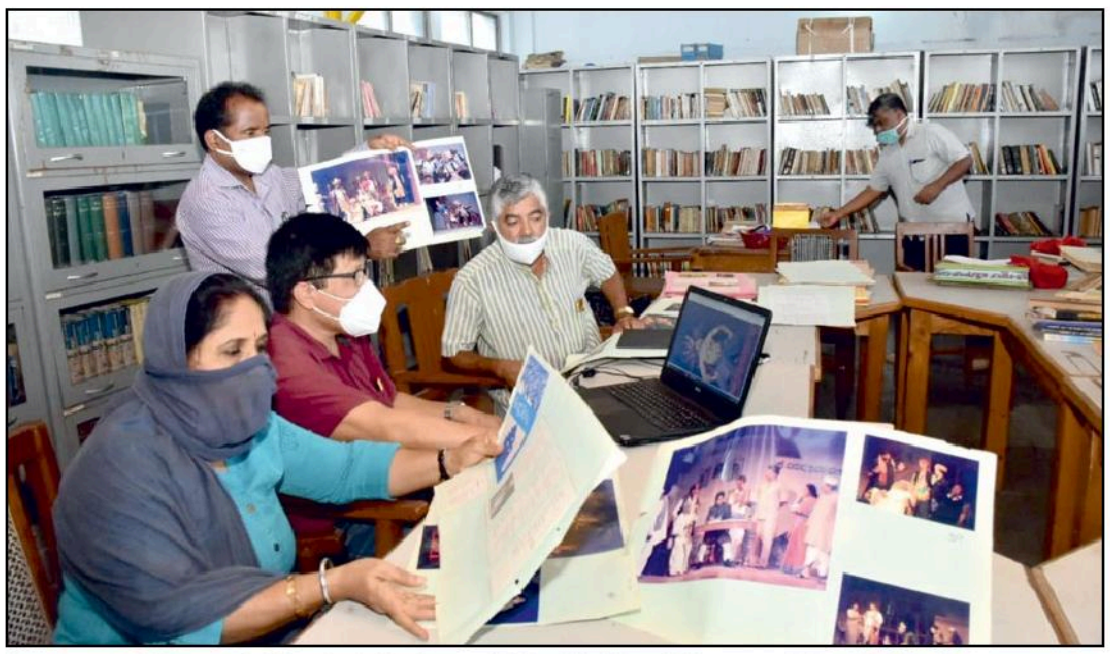
Digitisation to change script for Rangayana

City's theatre repertory assets including sets, costumes, properties, light, sound system and plays being digitised for posterity

Mysuru, June 1 (MK,DM & BCT)- Digitisation is profoundly changing the experience of theatre, not only in terms of new technology-based access, production and dissemination, but also in terms of participation and creation.

Be it through smartphone apps, streaming media or 3D effects, digital technology has crept into the modern theatre. Artistes and art directors have been experimenting with technology for years to enrich their work, revitalise theatrical performance and make theatre more relevant to digital audiences.

Following the footsteps of world theatres with regard to going digital, Mysuru's theatre repertoire Rangayana, led by its Director Addanda C. Cariappa has begun digitisation of all plays staged and theatre festivals hosted by it since its inception over 30 years ago and also the theatre songs for which renowned playwright and Rangayana's first Director B.V. Karanth has composed music.



Rangayana Director Addanda C. Cariappa** (sitting third from left) **supervising digitisation process at Rangayana Library this morning where photo albums and Rangayana literature are being converted into electronic format. Others seen are Rangayana Joint Director V.N. Mallikarjunaswamy, senior artiste Geetha Montadka and martial art teacher Anju Singh.

Unprotected assets: Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, Cariappa said that Rangayana has assets including sets, costumes, properties, light and sound system. "Over the years, the storage space of these assets had turned a dumpyard with no documentation whatsoever. Digitisation of all the physical assets will enable us to protect them and at the same time transfer them to the next generation," he said.

Digitisation will enable reuse of assets and it will provide valuable information on the growth of Rangayana in phases. "Also, at present, there is Rangayana Repertoire, Senior, Junior Repertoires and a School. Much has been written on them and we have loads of photos of plays. We are documenting all of them in electronic form," he said.

A list of plays that have not been digitised so far has been prepared and the digitisation process has begun from today. This is being done to ensure that theatre lovers do not forget old plays with the passage of time. As this is a fresh initiative, artistes will be trained on enacting the old plays, he said.

(See RANGAYANA on page 4)

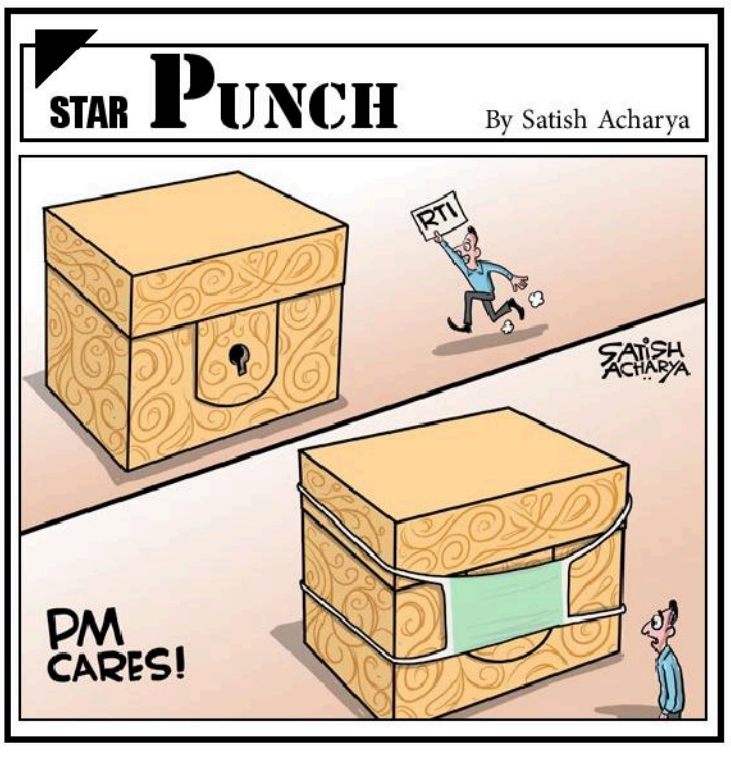
Expedite autonomy status for Classical Kannada Centre in Mysuru: Writers

Mysuru, June 1 (SPN&BCT)- Prominent Kannada writers and scholars have come to a unanimous opinion that Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada (CESCK) in Mysuru, housed at Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), must get autonomous status. In this regard they have written an open letter to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa to expedite the process of securing autonomous status.

Well-known writers like Saraswathi Samman Awardee Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa, Devanur Mahadeva, P. Mallesh, O. L. Nagabhushana Swamy, Prof. N. Boralingaiah, Dr. Kalegowda Nagawara, Dr. Aravind Malagathi, Dr. Veeranna Rajoora, Dr. Basavaraja Sadara, Dr. Keshava Sharma, Prof. Nanjaraje Urs, Prof. Krishnamurthy Hanur, D. Sabitha Bannadi, Dr. Tarini Shubhadayani, Dr. Nataraj Boodaalu, Venkatesh Machakanoor, Dr. Devara Kondareddy, Prof. Panditharadhya, G.S. Jayadeva, Dr. Basavaraj Kalgudi, Dr. Chandrashekar Nangali, Dr. Rajappa Dalawai and J.P. Basavaraju have also opposed the notification issued by CIIL Director about the research activities to be taken up by the Centre.

Though the CESCK is functioning under CIIL, the signatories of the letter have advocated that the Centre's autonomy will expedite research and academic work on the classical Kannada language and its propagation. "It is due to the struggle by people of Karnataka and litterateurs that Kannada language got its classical status in 2008 when B.S. Yediyurappa was the CM. Even now, the Government is doing prompt work to help CESCK to achieve its goals and objectives," the letter stated.

(See CENTRE on page 4)



Green Mysuru Initiative

'Citizens and industries must take care of plants'

District Minister chairs preliminary meeting ahead of World Environment Day, visits Nursery at Kukkarahalli Lake

Mysuru, June 1 (MTY&DM)- District Minister S.T. Somashekar has suggested that the responsibility of planting and caring of saplings in localities should be entrusted to the respective Residents Association, nearest Industries or private organisations.

Chairing a preliminary meeting ahead of World Environment Day (June 5) at ZP Hall here on May 30, Somashekar directed the officials to prepare a list of vacant spaces available in parks and such other public places in all localities of the city, where saplings can be planted.

Reiterating the need for turning the city into a 'Green Mysuru,' he said that officials must work towards achieving this goal by planting useful and medicinal saplings in parks, industrial areas, educational institutions, University premises, Government Office spaces, Government lands and along roadsides.

Complimenting the officials for taking up tree planting drive under MNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme), with a twin purpose of providing jobs in rural areas and expansion of green cover, Somashekar said that at the same time it is also important that the plants are taken care of.

Referring to concerns over depleting green cover of Chamundi Hill, the Minister said that he has sought for convening a meeting of Revenue Minister, the Department Secretary, Forest Minister and the Department Secretary , wherein issues such as planting and caring of saplings, the species and the number of saplings etc., could be discussed.

K.R. MLA S.A. Ramdas said that the Forest Department should come up with data on the number of saplings available with it. Also the Department should advise on the type of species to be planted, whether it is advisable to grow short plants under High Tension power lines and such other issues. Pointing out that we should not remain complacent after planting trees, Ramdas said that it is equally important to take care of the plants till they grow.

Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar said that Industries and Corporates should take responsibility for conserving our eco-system. Industrialists too should voluntarily come forward for maintenance of parks, he added.

DCF Dr. K.C. Prashanth Kumar, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Additional DC B.R. Poornima and other officials were present.

Later, Minister Somashekar also visited the Nursery at Kukkarahalli Lake premises and sought details about the saplings available for planting drive.

Immunity-boosting kits for frontline Railway staff

Hubballi, June 1 (UNI)-Sustaining the fight against COVID-19, Railways are working on ways and means to tackle the virus and prevent the spread of the virus especially among its frontline staff who are attending lakhs of citizens returning to their hometowns by Shramik Special trains.

Being in the frontline, these security and train staff are in constant contact with migrant citizens. So Railway administration has decided to arrange for protection by distributing Immunity Kits to shield them against COVID-19 virus at Railway Stations.

In a statement issued here by SWR, as part of its staff welfare measures, Construction Organisation of Bangalore have with Ministry of AYUSH started distribution of immunity-boosting kits to frontline workers at KSR Bengaluru Railway Station.

The Immunity Boosting Kits being jointly distributed with Department of AYUSH Karnataka contain the following: Arsenicum Album 30, Chavanprash, Ayush Kadha Powder and Ayush Oil for clearing any nasal congestion.

These packets were distributed to each Railway Protection Force staff to boost their immunity during this pandemic and protect them against the COVID-19 virus. The security personnel and staff at KSR Bengaluru Railway Station have welcomed these kits and thanked the administration for supporting them in their duties and protection in this crisis.

This initiative is being planned to be implemented in Hubballi and Mysuru Division also. Care is being taken to ensure social distancing, wearing of masks and sanitising of hands and regular announcements to caution the passengers for prevention and spread of COVID-19 virus before departure. Railway is also ensuring complete sanitisation of all coaches before boarding of Shramik Special trains by passengers.

Actor Jaggesh visits Suttur Mutt

Sandalwood actor and former legislator Jaggesh visited Suttur Mutt on May 30 and sought the blessings of Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji. Jaggesh, who was felicitated by the Seer, is seen with A.D. Dhruvakumar, Jayarajachandra, A.P. Nagesh and K.J. Kumar.

Happy World Foundation

plants 70 saplings at Hunsur School

Mysuru, June 1- Happy World Foundation, as part of their 'Adopt a Tree' project successfully planted 70 saplings at Kittur Rani Chennamma School, Nanjapura in Hunsur (Mysuru district) recently.

The tree species comprised Badami, Neem, Honge, Tabebuia Rosea, Parijatha, Sampige and Jack Fruit varieties. The saplings were planted within the school camps and were procured from various Forest Department Nurseries.

Volunteers from the Foundation made sure that they select native tree species that provide maximum shade and flower annually once fully grown. The saplings were planted within the School premises and also by the side of the road as the area is completely dry. The School children in the surrounding areas assisted the Foundation in planting the saplings.

After the saplings were planted, iron fencing was laid around the plants so that they are protected from livestock. The Foundation volunteers ensured that the saplings are watered regularly and despite lockdown, they travelled to Hunsur just to water the saplings.

Live Music Concerts on Facebook

Mysuru, June 1- Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust, Mysuru, in association with Sri Guruguhagana Sabha, Mysuru, has organised the following live concerts on Facebook (https://m_facebook.com/stssct):

June 2 (5 pm to 6.30 pm): Flute Concert in memory of Padma Shri T.R. Mahalingam by Vid. Rakesh Sudhir (flute), Vid. H.L. Shivashankaraswamy (mridanga), Vid. C.N. Tyagaraju (violin) and Vid. M.R. Manjunath (ghata).

June 3 (5pm to 6.30pm): Flute Concert in memory of Venu Vidwan A.V. Prakash by Vid. V. Vamshidhar, Vid. A. Radhesh (mridanga), Vid. H.N. Bhaskar (violin) and Vid. S. Manjunath (ghata).

VOICE OF THE READER

Power billing: Yes, CESC is cheating gullible public

Sir,

This has reference to the continuous news regarding exorbitant power bills being received by Mysureans while the innocent public are already tottering with the never before seen effect of the pandemic.

CESC readily has all the required information of their consumers' power utilisation pattern at their fingertips. They have: Billing and Payment History, Consumption History, Consumption Calculator and Usage History Data. But they do not want to make use of this valuable information.

My Meter No. is CPJL 9250 and my average usage for the period June 2019 to March 2020 is 200.5 units. And as per the data furnished by CESC on the website my average daily usage for these 10 months is 6.572 units. So, my average billing for these 10 months has been Rs.1,427.70.

In the month of April 2020, they didn't take readings at our doorstep for obvious reasons. But when all the above data is available with them, they decided that my average usage is 171 units and daily average usage is 5.52 units. So, they hoisted on their web that my bill for April 2020 is Rs.1,190.

Now, in the month of May 2020, they took reading at our meter and said you cough up Rs.2,152. According to them I have consumed 288 Units at 9.60 units per day.

It is high time consumers stand up against this LOOT and CHEAT by the CESC. May be the higher authorities have just no idea about all this. But if this is being done with their explicit knowledge, then God save us!

— M.G. Vijayakumar
JP Nagar 2nd Stage
25.5.2020

KR Inspector calls upon youths to shun tobacco products

KR Inspector L. Srinivas seen pouring water on tobacco products at the awareness programme organised by Arivu organisation at Nanjumalige Circle yesterday as former District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President M. Chandrashekar, former Corporator M. D. Parthasarathy, Arivu President Srikanth Kashyap and others look on.

Mysuru, June 1 (PM&KS)- As part of World No Tobacco Day, Arivu Samsthe had organised a programme to create awareness on the ill-effects of tobacco consumption at Nanjumalige Circle in city yesterday.

Krishnaraja (KR) Inspector L. Srinivas, who was the chief guest, inaugurated the programme by pouring water on tobacco products and destroying them.

Speaking on the occasion, Inspector Srinivas said that if people come forward to create a tobacco-free society, it is only then that a healthy society can be created. Regretting that more number of youths were getting addicted to tobacco at present, he called upon them to shun tobacco products for their own good.

Continuing, the Inspector said that if a person gets addicted to tobacco, he would suffer from physical and mental illness and hence teachers and parents should take the responsibility of creating awareness on the bad effects of tobacco consumption to their students and children. Every year, 60 lakh people die in the world due to tobacco consumption related diseases, he added.

District Kannada Sahitya Parishat former President M. Chandrashekar, who also spoke said that tobacco consumption causes various illness for which awareness should be created and added that if the quantity of tobacco products being manufactured comes down, growing of tobacco would also come down drastically.

K.R. Co-operative Bank Vice-President Basavaraju (Basappa), former Corporator M.D. Parthasarathy, Arivu President Srikanth Kashyap, industrialist Apoorva Suresh, leaders Jayashankar Swamy, Harish Naidu, Yadunandan and others were present.

Pet owners, dog breeders to meet tomorrow

Picture for representation only.

Mysuru, June 1 (KS)- In the wake of new rules and regulations by the Animal Welfare Board of India, pertaining to the implementation of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog breeding and marketing) Rules, 2018 framed under PCA Act 1960, a meeting of pet owners and dog breeders has been convened tomorrow at Grand Serene Pvt. Ltd. building, opposite to City Police Commissioner's Office at 6 pm. The Act restricts the number of dogs that can be kept at homes as per the area (size) of the house among other rules

The meeting to be chaired by Mysore Canine Club President B.P. Manjunath will be attended by Veterinarian Dr. Sanjeevmurthy and others.

Those interested to attend should compulsorily wear face masks and maintain social distancing at the meeting hall.

For details, contact B.P. Manjunath on Mob: 94440-79165 or Dr. Sanjeevmurthy on Mob: 94480- 54778.

Obituary

K. Nirupama

Nanjangud, June 1- K. Nirupama (48), an Assistant Teacher at the Government Higher Primary School at Alambur in the taluk, passed away yesterday at a private Hospital in Mysuru.

She leaves behind her husband, one son and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill in Mysuru yesterday afternoon, according to a family sources.

MLC opposes Divisional-level evaluation of II PUC answer scripts

Warns of mass boycott of ongoing evaluation if Govt. continues to use pressure tactics against lecturers

Marithibbegowda

Mysuru, June 1 (PM&DM)- Maintaining that the public transport system is yet to return to normalcy and health concerns are growing amid COVID-19 pandemic, JD(S) MLC Marithibbegowda has strongly opposed the ongoing Divisional-level evaluation of II PUC answer scripts, saying that it poses a health and safety risk for evaluators.

In a press statement, Marithibbegowda, who represents South Teachers Constituency in the Legislative Council, termed the Divisional-level evaluation as unscientific and inappropriate.

Pointing out that Mysuru Divisional evaluation is taking place at 9 centres in the city from May 28, the MLC wondered how lecturers from the neighbouring districts of Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Hassan and Kodagu, which form Mysuru Division, can take part in the evaluation in the absence of a normal transport system and Boarding and Lodging facilities in Mysuru, with Hotels, Lodges and Restaurants shut due to lockdown.

Claiming that he had written to the Primary and Secondary Education Minister and the PU Education Department authorities over a month ago to conduct evaluation of answer scripts at all the District Head Quarters taking into consideration the health and safety of Lecturers, the MLC said that the District-level evaluation was a better option especially when there are a high number of lady evaluators.

Alleging that some DDPUEs were forcing lecturers to attend evaluation work, he said that this pressure tactics should stop and those lecturers who cannot attend must be exempted from evaluation work. Demanding suspension of DDPUEs, who are exerting pressure on Lecturers without bothering about their (lecturers) health and safety concerns, he warned of giving a call for mass boycott of the ongoing evaluation if the Govt. continues to threaten the lecturers.

SI recruitment postponed

Mysuru, June 1 (KS)- The direct recruitment to the vacant 431 (Civil) and 125 (Kalyana Karnataka) Sub-Inspector (SI) posts for the year 2020-21 in the Police Department, for which applications were invited from June 1 to June 30, has been postponed due to administrative reasons, according to a Government order dated May 30, 2020. The new recruitment dates would be notified to the candidates.

Digitisation to change script for Rangayana

Theatre Repertoire Rangayana has huge light and sound assets. They are being listed and documented for posterity. Along with digitisation of dramas and assets, all physical properties of Rangayana will also be available in digital format.

Electric systems being accounted for so that the assets can be used at a later date. Picture right shows the costumes, special effects, artworks, pottery, face designs and other paraphernalia being accounted for and digitised. [Photos by M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav]

(Continued from page 1)

Use of digital technology: Primarily, digitisation is the use of digital technology to project dramas and also to distribute them — from analogue content to online. With digitisation, there is the flexibility of programming which makes it cost-effective and digital content will remain in the same condition year on year, he explained.

"The new initiative aims to encourage an effective exchange of ideas on how theatre (Rangayana) can be brought closer to online communities. Stages can be transformed with technology in order to garner more engagement by both offline and online audiences," Cariappa added.

After the recording is over, plays will be uploaded on social websites, he said and added that this apart, the songs for which B.V. Karanth has composed music, will be sung by senior theatre artiste Ramachandra Adapa which will also be recorded and digitised.

Theatre Library on cards: Stating that it has been proposed to set up a first-of-its-kind 'Theatre Library,' Cariappa said that the Library will feature a well-equipped recording room, a hall and a studio. Asserting that the library is one of the ambitious projects of Rangayana, he said that the modalities will be discussed with artistes and staff, following which a proposal will be sent to the Government.

Planting of saplings: Highlighting the other activities of Rangayana, Cariappa said that they include expansion of greenery and upkeep of all drama equipment, costumes and other paraphernalia.

Noting that it has been planned to plant 100 saplings in Rangayana premises in association with the Forest Department, he said that several rare species of plants are being brought from Kodagu too and planted in the campus.

Cleaning, organising theatre properties: "All theatre properties at Rangayana are being cleaned and organised. All decorative equipment are kept at Lankesh Gallery and lighting props are moved to a separate room. Each and every property belonging to Rangayana will be preserved carefully," said the Rangayana Director.

Reacting on the same, senior artiste Geetha Montadka said, "For many years, properties including CDs and files were not arranged properly. Some properties were also drenched during rains. Hence, taking care of the properties required for Rangayana theatre activities is our responsibility. Earlier, we had to depend on others to keep the Rangayana building clean and to maintain the props by drying and arranging them. Also, to organise files we used to depend on others. But, now for the past two months as there are no activities at Rangayana due to lockdown and all of us artistes unitedly have taken up the cleaning and organising works. This has indeed brought happiness to all of us and also increased our responsibilities."

Over the years, all plays performed at Rangayana were photographed and stored in albums. Now these photos are being digitised.

Classical Kannada Centre

(Continued from page 1)

Telugu and Tamil centres

Drawing the attention of the CM, the writers said that it is a matter of pride that CESCK has completed 10 years of successful functioning in Mysuru. "The Central Institute for Classical Tamil has secured autonomous status within years of the language being accorded classical status and it has grown by leaps and bounds. Also, the Central Institute for Classical Telugu was shifted to Nellore from Mysuru and is getting all the funding while unfortunately there is a delay in according autonomy to CESCK," the letter said.

The writers have mentioned that Kannada and Culture Minister C.T. Ravi was making all efforts in providing autonomous status but CIIL Director Prof. D.G. Rao was not responding to him and is misleading the State and Central Governments by claiming that CESCK is not developed enough to get autonomous status, the letter said.

Letter to MHRD

It may be mentioned here that Prof. Rao had earlier this year reportedly written to Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) where he had stated that the CESCK was in the initial stage after its establishment under CIIL and granting autonomy to CESCK at this juncture would be premature. Taking serious objection to Prof. Rao's letter, the writers said that such remarks would amount to resist efforts to secure autonomy for CESCK. "People of Karnataka are shocked by contents of the letter and any person who has knowledge about Indian languages would not have written like this. Prof. Rao has insulted CIIL and the science of language," the writers said in the letter.

Controversial notification

The writers have also demanded that the notification issued by CIIL on fresh appointments to the post of Project Director and other staff for Kannada language (CESCK) be withdrawn immediately as they termed the notification illegal. "The notification issued by CIIL Director hinders the research activities of CESCK and is against the rules of MHRD and aims at changing the present research scholars functioning at CESCK," the letter stated.

Sources from CIIL said that all these years, there was no land for CESCK to function as an autonomous entity and only a few months back the University of Mysore had agreed to allot 3.5 acres of land to CESCK but the land is yet to be transferred.

Though CIIL authorities claim that the research staff for Kannada language was contractual in nature and fresh appointments have to be made, sources said that there were many contract research staff in other Departments of CIIL and they have been working for 10 to 15 years. As such, exception can be made and it is the demand of Kannada writers too to continue the same research staff by withdrawing the notification.

CESC staff protest Centre's privatisation move

Opposing the Centre's move to privatise power distribution system and the Electricity Amendment Bill - 2020, the members of CESC Employees Association and its Federation staged a protest by wearing black arm bands and reporting to work at the CESC Office on Sri Harsha Road this morning.

Vehicle to create awareness on ill-effects of tobacco on the move

1,359 cases booked under COTPA, Rs. 2,35,380 fine collected in 2019-20

DHO Dr. R. Venkatesh seen flagging off the vehicle at in city this morning as Dr. Chidambara, Dr. Ravi, Dr. Shivaprasad, Dr. Umesh, S. Prakash and others look on.

Mysuru, June 1 (MTY&KS)- To mark World No Tobacco Day celebration, District Survekshan Unit, District Tobacco Control Cell and District Health and Family Welfare Society jointly flagged off an awareness vehicle at District Health Officer's (DHO) Office premises in Nazarabad this morning.

Every year, on May 31st, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day to raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.

Speaking after flagging off the vehicle, DHO Dr. R. Venkatesh said that the vehicle will be moving around the district to create awareness on the ill-effects of tobacco consumption.

Youths were falling prey to tobacco products and were ruining their lives. Hence this year, the aim is to protect youths from getting addicted to tobacco products, the DHO said and added that the vehicle will also be creating awareness about the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) rules and regulations.

Continuing, the DHO said 48 raids under COTPA were conducted in 2019-20, with 1,359 cases booked under various Sections and Rs. 2,35,380 fine collected. Under Section 4: 1,113 cases booked and Rs. 1,92,880 fine collected; Section 6A: 210 cases- Rs. 38,000 fine and under Section 6B: 28 cases were booked and Rs. 4,500 fine collected.

District Vector Borne Diseases Control Officer Dr. Chidambara, RCHO Dr. Ravi, Dr. Shivaprasad, Dr. Umesh, S. Prakash, Health officers and others were present at the flagging off event.

Shramik Special leaves Mysuru with 466 migrants to Assam

Some of the young passengers who boarded the Guwahati-bound Shramik Special train at Ashokapuram Railway Station in Mysuru yesterday.

Mysuru, June 1- The 11th Shramik Special train carrying migrant workers, who were stranded in Mysuru, Kodagu, Hassan and Hunsur, left for Guwahati, Assam, from Mysuru yesterday.

The train carrying as many as 466 registered migrants started the journey from Ashokapuram Railway Station at 1.30 pm. In addition, 176 migrants from Ramanagara boarded the Shramik Special. The train comprising 20 LHB coaches is scheduled to reach Guwahati on Tuesday. The passengers were allowed to board the train only after scrutiny and verification of documents of the registered migrants.

According to the Railway authorities, the Indian Railways will operate 100 pairs of special trains in the second phase of graded resumption of passenger train services in the country from today. These special trains, with both air-conditioned and non-air conditioned classes, will be additional to the existing Shramik and Special trains that started operations earlier this month.

Tickets can be booked online on the IRCTC website or mobile app, with an advanced reservation period of a maximum of 120 days. Booking of tickets across the counter at Railway Stations can also be done. All passengers will be required to follow a host of guidelines, passengers will be screened for COVID and only those with no symptoms and confirmed tickets will be allowed to enter the Stations or board the trains. The passengers will have to keep their faces covered with masks and observe physical distancing both at the Station as well as during their journey. Upon arrival at their last stop, the passengers will have to adhere to health protocols set by the destination State or Union Territory.

New norms issued for places of worship in Karnataka

Bengaluru, June 1 (Agencies)- With places of worship expected to reopen on June 8, the Karnataka State Minorities Commission has released guidelines for Mosques and Dargahs that include social distancing, temperature testing and compulsory hand washing.

Abdul Azeem, Commission Chairman said, "Everyone will have to maintain one-metre distance and carry their prayer mats. They will all be temperature-scanned and Farz prayers will be held for 10-15 minutes. Friday prayers should be completed within 20 minutes." The guidelines directed Mosque Committees to ensure that the floor of the Mosques is cleaned regularly with disinfectants. Distribution of tabarukh, shaking hands and overcrowding inside Mosques will not be allowed.

The Muzrai Department also issued guidelines for temples, like mandatory face masks, sanitisation of sanctum sanctorum and thermal screening. In a letter, the Hindu Religious Institutions and Charitable Endowment Dept. mentioned that while Temple authorities and devotees should wear masks, priests, helpers and workers are exempt, in the core area of the temple.

The Muzrai Department is preparing broad guidelines not to allow dispensing of the customary holy water or Prasadam in token of the deity's blessings to the devotees. At the same time, devotees will be restrained from carrying with them any types of puja materials like coconuts, fruits, flower, Tulsi twigs, etc. when entering the Temples.

The devotees can only have darshan of the Lord and prostrate before the deities. They cannot take part in any of the festivities related to the Temple or perform services. Even the devotees who book services online will only get to have the darshan of the deity. The proposed circular also plans to ban annual car festivals and fairs — where large number of people come together — temporarily till further orders.

Janaushadhi Kendras achieve record sales of Rs. 52 crore in April 2020

Sadananda Gowda

New Delhi, June 1 (UNI)- Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJAKs) achieved a record sales turnover of Rs. 52 crore in the month of April 2020 compared to Rs. 42 crore in March 2020. It was Rs. 17 crore in April 2019.

Reportedly, this led to total savings of approximately Rs. 300 crore for citizens as PMBJAKs' medicines are cheaper by 50 to 90 per cent of the average market price.

D.V. Sadananda Gowda, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, has congratulated Janaushadhi store operators for achieving a record sales turnover and for working nonstop and tirelessly in the circumstances when the country needed it most.

Sadananda Gowda has ensured that his Ministry, through Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), is committed to ensuring uninterrupted availability of affordable medicines to people.

Amid lockdown, Janaushadhi Kendras accepted orders for medicines on WhatsApp and e-mail, where on the basis of uploaded prescriptions medicines are delivered at the doorsteps of the patients. Supply arrangements with India Post were made for delivery of medicines to the remotely located stores.

At present, there are over 6,300 Janaushadhi Kendras functioning in 726 districts of the country ensuring supply of quality medicines at affordable prices, the Minister said. "It is heartening to note that many PMBJKs are using modern communication tools including social media platforms like WhatsApp to provide better services in effecting faster delivery of essential medicines to the needy," Sadananda Gowda said.

In its fight against COVID, the Government is revolutionising the face of healthcare system through notable schemes like PMBJP that have been providing over 900 quality generic-medicines and 154 surgical equipment and consumable at affordable prices for every citizen of the nation, the Minister said.

The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) has developed 'Jan Aushadhi Sugam Mobile App' to help people in a big way to locate their nearest Jan Aushadhi Kendras and availability of affordable generic medicine with its price.

"Over 3,25,000 people are using this App and they can avail a host of user-friendly options like direction guided through Google Map for location of the Janaushadhi Kendra, search Jan Aushadhi generic medicines, analyse product comparison of generic and branded medicine in form of MRP and overall savings with the help of this App," Sadananda Gowda added.

City Courts re-start functioning after two months

Only 10 cases to be taken up per day in each Court Hall

Mysuru, June 1 (RK&DM)- After a gap of two months following the nationwide COVID-19 induced lockdown, the City Courts (City and District Courts Complex and Malalawadi Court) re-opened to a new normal this morning. The Courts had declared a holiday in March subsequent to the COVID lockdown and only urgent cases were taken up during this period.

Following a direction from the Karnataka High Court, the Courts re-opened today and only 10 cases will be taken up per day in each of the Court Hall at the two Courts in Mysuru.

The cases to be taken up for the day will be notified on a Board put up at the main entry gate of the Court and also at the entry to the Court Halls. Other than the Judge, Court staff and the Advocate who has filed the Vakalatnama for the case to be heard, no other persons are allowed inside the Court Hall.

There is no entry for litigants, clients of Advocates and other members of the public. Social distancing and other lockdown norms such as wearing of face masks and use of hand sanitisers are strictly followed in the Court Halls.

Upon entry into the Court premises, Advocates are required to undergo thermal screening and use of hand sanitisers is compulsory. Also hand sanitisers are kept at every Court Hall as a safety measure.

The vehicles of only Judges and Court staff are allowed inside the Court premises. Advocates, clients, litigants and other members of the public are required to park their vehicles in the space outside the premises of the Court.

Meanwhile, in another development, Court Nos.5,6 & 7 began functioning from the New Court Hall in Malalawadi Court Complex located behind Apollo Hospital starting from today.

Prior to the re-opening, both the Court Complexes were completely cleaned and sanitised.

The Police led by Lakshmipuram Inspector Gangadhar, Ashokapuram Inspector Manjunath and V.V.Puram Traffic Inspector Aruna Kumari provided security.

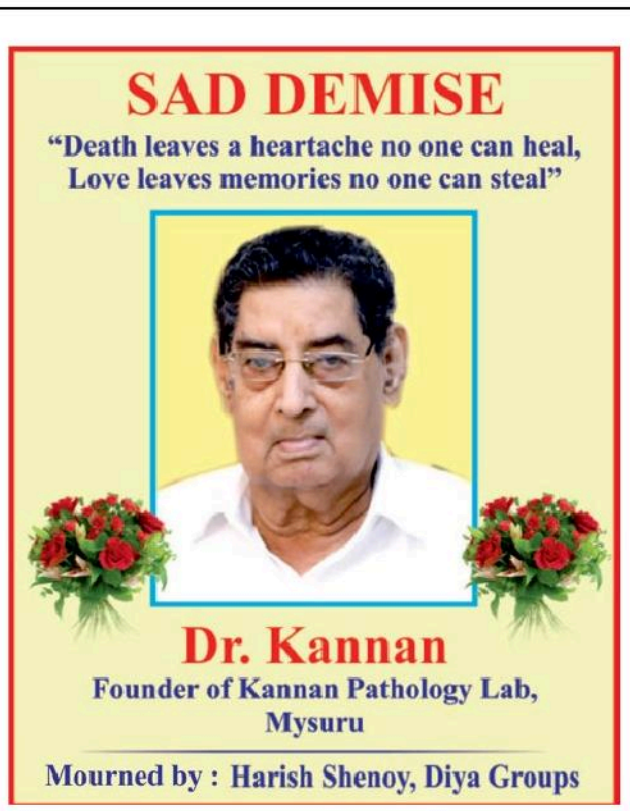
Ex-CEO of Kirloskar Electric Co. Vasanth Vibhute passes away

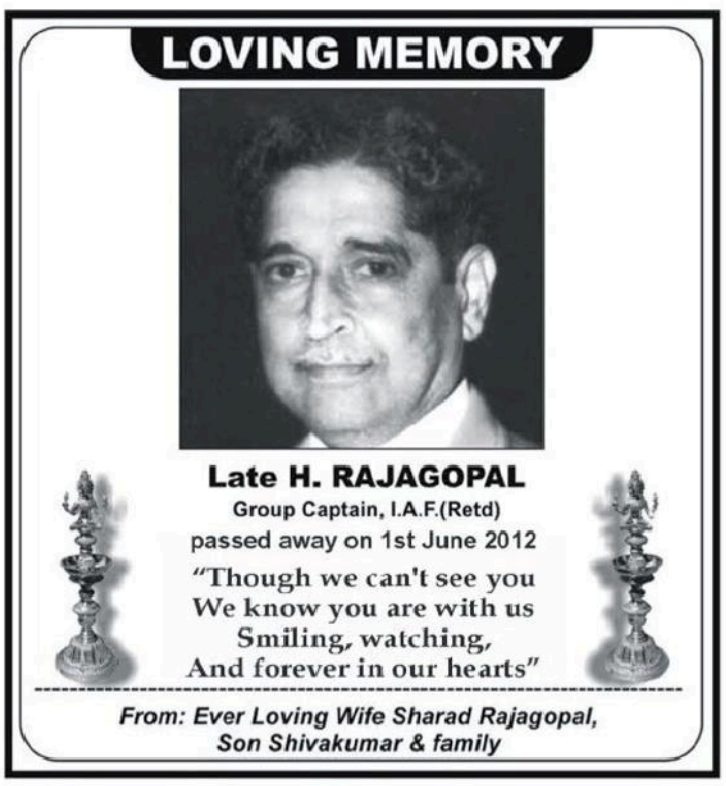
Mysuru, June 1- Former CEO of Kirloskar Electric Company Ltd., Mysuru, Vasanth Vibhute (70) passed away at a private hospital yesterday in Bengaluru after a brief illness.

Vasanth Vibhute

He started his career at CMTI (Central Machine Tool Industries), Bengaluru and later joined Kirloskar Electric Company in Mysuru. He established Quality Electronics, Hexmoto Controls Pvt. Ltd. and GiviMisurePvt. Ltd. And was a mentor for Balaji Autotech Pvt. Ltd. A serial entrepreneur creating jobs for a number of people, he was a gentle human being who took personal care and interest in every employee's welfare. The sole reason for starting all these MSMEs in Mysuru and Bengaluru was to encourage youngsters to start new industries and become job providers.

He leaves behind his wife, children and several grieving employees and friends.


SAD DEMISE
"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,
Love leaves memories no one can steal"
Dr. Kannan
Founder of Kannan Pathology Lab, Mysuru
Mourned by : Harish Shenoy, Diya Groups


LOVING MEMORY
Late H. RAJAGOPAL
Group Captain, I.A.F.(Retd)
passed away on 1st June 2012
"Though we can't see you
We know you are with us
Smiling, watching,
And forever in our hearts"
From: Ever Loving Wife Sharad Rajagopal,
Son Shivakumar & family

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	6,235
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	5,454
Persons isolated in home for 14 days (Inter-State travellers)	:	576
Persons isolated in facility quarantine for 7 days	:	201
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	4
Total samples tested	:	9,422
Samples found negative	:	9,326
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	96
Persons cured / discharged	:	92
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	257
Persons cured / discharged	:	33
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	3,408
Persons cured / discharged	:	1,218
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	51
Total active cases in India	:	93,322
Persons cured / discharged	:	91,818
Death toll so far in India	:	5,394

(Note: Some of the figures in Karnataka are of May 31. Media updates for June 1 not available)

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